they pay for the vigour and vivacity of youth. The French, who admit more of mind into their notions of beauty, give the preference to women of thirty. I mean to ſay that they allow women to be in their moſt perfect ſtate, when vivacity gives place to reaſon, and to that mageſtic ſerioufneſs of character, which marks maturity;—or, the reſting point. In youth, till twenty, the body ſhoots out, till thirty the ſolids are attaining a degree of denſity; and the flexible muſcles, growing daily more rigid, give character to the countenance; that is, they trace the operations of the mind with the iron pen of fate, and tell us not only what powers are within, but how they have been employed.

It is proper to obſerve, that animals who arrive ſlowly at maturity, are the longeſt lived, and of the nobleſt ſpecies. Men cannot, however, claim any natural ſuperiority from the grandeur of longevity; for in this reſpect nature has not diſtinguiſhed the male.

Polygamy is another phyſical degradation; and a plauſible argument for a cuſtom, that blaſts every domeſtic virtue, is drawn from the well-atteſted fact, that in the countries where

where it is eſtabliſhed, more females are born than males. This appears to be an indication of nature, and to nature, apparently reaſonable ſpeculations muſt yield. A further concluſion obviouſly preſented itſelf; if polygamy be neceſſary, woman muſt be inferior to man, and made for him.

With reſpect to the formation of the fetus in the womb, we are very ignorant; but it appears to me probable, that an accidental phyſical cauſe may account for this phenomenon, and prove it not to be a law of nature. I have met with ſome pertinent obſervations on the ſubject in Forſter's Account of the Iſles of the South-Sea, that will explain my meaning. After obſerving that of the two ſexes amongſt animals, the moſt vigorous and hotteſt conſtitution always prevails, and produces its kind; he adds,—'If this be 'applied to the inhabitants of Africa, it is evi-'dent that the men there, accuſtomed to 'polygamy, are enervated by the uſe of ſo 'many women, and therefore leſs vigorous; 'the women, on the contrary, are of a hotter 'conſtitution, not only on account of their more 'irritable nerves, more ſenſible organization, 'and more lively fancy; but likewiſe becauſe' they